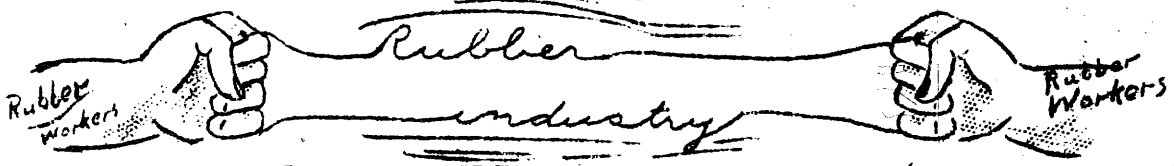


RUBBER WORKER

MILITANCY — gets results!



Rubber's Got to Give Sometime!

WORKERS BACK NEGOTIATIONS AT BINGHAM (LOCAL 120 URWA-CIO): PREPARE TO STRIKE

Negotiations which date back to May 8, 1945, when the workers of Bingham Mfg. Co. voted to join Local 120 of URWA (CIO), are nearing their climax. The executive board of 120 has stated on record that "Bingham will either sign an equitable contract with a substantial wage increase or we strike." What Local 120 says, it does.

So far, "Old Man Bingham" (Carl Bingham) has been a tough nut for organized labor to crack. At Chicago, the largest of the 16 plants he owns in the U.S., he has beaten the AFL in two organizing attempts. But last year, he met a local leadership which didn't give up. Result was another victory for Local 120 in the rubber industry in Chicago.

Winning this victory was no easy task. Local 120 was forced to strike Sept. 11, last year and Bingham dragged out the strike for 9 weeks and 2 days before he signed a contract granting a 15% wage increase to every job classification. Local 120 regarded this as an unsatisfactory wage agreement because the men at Bingham were still far below the wage scales paid to the men in their Rapid Roller Division. So they continued negotiations for wage increases from December last year until
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Local 288 URWA-CIO Issues New Shop Paper. Management Takes Notice

Last Monday workers of Local 288 of the United Rubber Workers of America (CIO) published issue number one of their new shop newspaper.

The effects of the paper were so immediate and moving that a local officer tells Labor Views, "This paper, telling what we think and what we want, is going to come out every week from now on. The same way that our local is never going to go to sleep again, so also our paper is never going to go to sleep."

Evidently the appearance of the 288 shop newspaper giving a vigorous and fighting statement of the workers' strike demands and aims made management feel that they really meant business. For, the company took immediate steps to show it was going to meet some of these demands.

One of the chief demands of the workers in Local 288, who work in the American Industrial Rubber plant, 4401 S. La Salle St., is that the miserable sanitary and toilet conditions in the plant be corrected. The very next day after the appearance of the 288 shop paper, Mr. Trilling, the owner of the plant, called plant mechanics up to his office to discuss plans
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3 NEGRO WORKER HOMES
BURNED; MANY HURT

HITS AGAIN!

(This article is a reprint from the September 15th issue of Chi Core News, organ of the Chicago Committee of Racial Equality. In the same issue of Chi Core News another article was published giving the Labor Views position on defense squads based on the trade unions. The editorial board of Chi Core News endorsed this position.)

On Sunday, August 25, at 4:30 a.m., the residents in the building at 228 W. 23rd Street were forced to flee for their lives when a fire swept the building after an explosion. The lives of 16 children were endangered and six people were injured, needing hospitalization. The injuries were mostly fractures suffered when they jumped out of windows. Three children were thrown out of windows by parents in order to save their lives. Two of them were injured. The entrance had been blocked immediately by the fire.

incondiary origin.

On Thursday night, Aug. 31st, a fire, preceded by an explosion, occurred in the basement at 268 W. 23rd Street. No one was injured and the damage was small.

The community in which these fires occurred is a mixed neighborhood in which Negroes, Italians, Chinese, Croations and Mexicans live. There have been a number of fires, assaults and acts of vandalism against the Negroes living in the area. Many Negroes living in the area charge that the fires are set, or ordered set, by gangsters who want them out of the district for possible political reasons. The district has been largely ruled in the past by a group who have been heavy recipients of political patronage from the Kelly-dominated Democratic machine in Chicago.

About 6 a.m., after the fire was extinguished, a Negro was hit by a white man when he asked for a light for his cigarette. A fight immediately developed between the Negroes and whites in which some of the firemen participated in the beating of the Negroes. One of the firemen hit James Ferguson in the face, injuring his eyes. Another fireman, seeking a weapon, was given the control bar by the motorman of a streetcar, with which he attacked the Negroes. One white man pulled out a gun and threatened to shoot. Police and fire department records give "undetermined" in listing the fire cause, but the fire attorney believes that the real cause was arson.

The "Chicago Defender" charges that back of the anti-Negro terror in the district there is a "deep-rooted political plot, using race tensions and arson as weapons to oust Negroes from Chicago's turbulent patronage-rich, first ward." and that "Negro citizens point out that the influx of Negroes from the South and from the other sections of the city, threatens to upset the delicate voting balance and affect the 'port-barrel' patronage from one of the city's richest political districts."

On Friday night, Sept. 1, seven people were taken to hospitals suffering broken arms or legs when they were forced to jump from second story windows of the building at 249 W. Alexandria Street, before fire nets could be brought to the scene. Both front and rear entrances were blocked by the rapidly spreading fire of

It seems that the political machines, fronting for various real estate interest that profit from the existence and continuance of the "Black Ghetto", are behind-the-scenes forces in the renewed terrorism against Negroes.

NEW TERROR AGAINST NEGROES STIRS PLANS FOR GIANT PROTEST MARCH

MILITANTS FORCE CONFERENCE TO MEET AFTER FIVE WEEKS OF INACTIVITY AND FUTILE PROTESTS TO "AUTHORITIES"

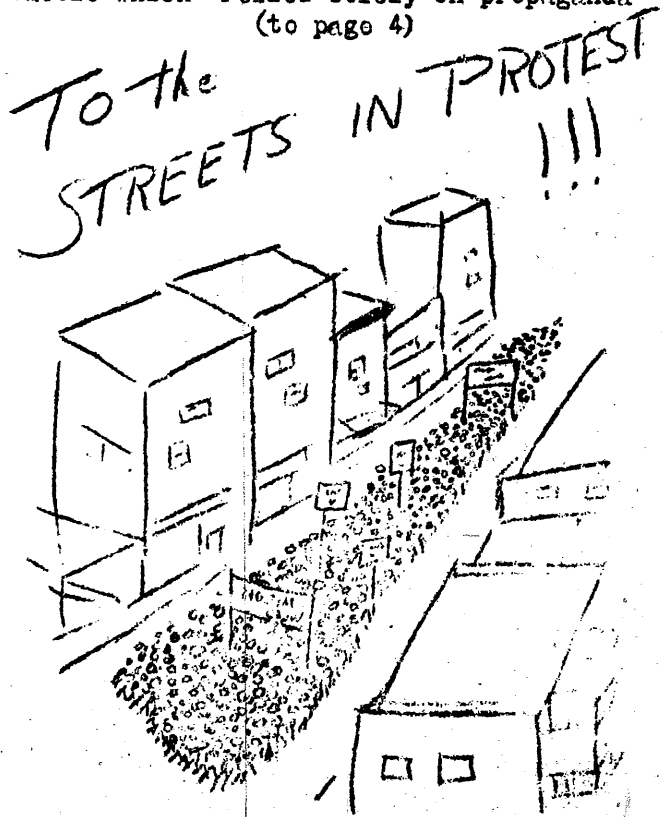
After five weeks of inactivity, the steering committee of the "conference to Combat Terrorism Against Minorities" was called together on Sept. 11th at a South Side community center by chairman McGee (president of Chicago branch of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.) - and the committee again reaffirmed its readiness to fight the growing and organized terror by means of a Protest March...

The meeting started with a report on three new cases of terrorism against Negro homes (this brings the number up to 62 known instances.) At 228 W. 23rd St. six people were injured because of an incendiary attack. At 249 W. Alexandria St. seven people had to jump out of windows before fire nets could be brought to the scene. At 268 W. 23rd St. luckily no one was injured. That the fires were not due to "accidents" appears clear when one considers that they started both in the front and rear entrance of the houses - blocking all exits - and that the hasty combustion points that either incendiary bombs or gasoline soaked rags had been used.

Next it was pointed out at the conference how futile our past efforts had been in trying to get public officials to do their duty. Mayor Kelly's "solution" was to delegate "race problems" to a special Civil Rights Unit within the City's legal department. Five corporation lawyers were appointed to handle mainly such cases, but they received no new authority to investigate or to act. This means that as matters stand most offenses, like arson, are punishable under a state law and the City has no right to prosecute people burning other people's houses willfully. McGee said that talking with the lawyers he became quite discouraged to see that they did not see what they could do anyway. The conference with State Attorney Touhy had also turned out to be a flop. The main sense of Touhy's two

hour monologue was that he was not going to appoint a special prosecutor for crimes against minorities and that any evidence presented by us would be carefully and doubtfully investigated. He sort of vaguely promised to appoint one of his own helps to more or less take charge of all such cases. The talk with Police Commissioner Pondergast Having also been futile, as one delegate of the conference remarked: "We have run out of authorities to run to."

As a solution, Bullock made a motion for the enactment by the Conference of a Speakers' Bureau stating that said Bureau should send speakers to union locals and other organizations to urge the members to organize protest marches and to buy up space in the daily papers to protest terrorism. After a discussion during which a CORE member pointed out the weakness of a tactic which relied solely on propaganda (to page 4)



ONLY WORKERS' mass action CAN BEAT terrorism!

March Against Terror Planned (from page 3)

- especially since our enemies possess all the funds and several union people felt the idea of buying up ads impractical the motion was tabled in favor of a discussion of the idea which came out of the previous meeting: the Protest March.

Wesley Thompson, president of Labor's Council for Community Action and representative at large of UAW-CIO asked the pertinent question: what our direction in the future was going to be - Mike Bartell (Socialist Workers Party organizer) sidestepped the question by pointing out that

we did not all agree on a direction - his organization had proposed earlier the formation of defense squads but since there seems to be disagreement on this issue let the conference but concentrate on the March which surely would be a very effective way of showing to the terrorists that we are on our toes...

Bartell therefore made the motion to have a march around the end of October and to set up a committee to organize the march. This motion was passed unanimously and the committee set up.

The date of the Protest March unfortunately could not be set since the majority of the Conference felt that "we just had to have" a city permit to protest against terrorism.

LOCAL 288...

(from page 1)

for new toilet facilities, for a new women's rest room and for new shower rooms and lockers plus proper sewage drainage from the plant. He further stated that he was going to put the safety switches on the mills - one of the union's insistent demands.

Alos, Mr. Trilling caused to be immediately installed last week, new pipe railings in the men's shower room and some benches - all arranged so that for the first time the men have some place to hang their clothes.

Then Mr. Trilling gave the men a new ten-minute rest period in the morning.

But the workers of Local 288 already know what to expect of Trilling and his promises. He signed a union contract last year providing for most of the conditions the workers are still asking for this year.

A contract is a promise and Mr. Trilling has ignored it. Wednesday he gave the workers a good example of this. A girl working in the trimming room cut a vein in her arm. She was immediately rushed to the doctor. According to the union contract a worker who reports to work but is prevented from working through no fault of his own, is supposed to receive three hours pay. The next day the company refused to pay her for any time except the hour she had actually worked.

Tuesday Trilling "docked" a steward one hour's pay because he stopped work to settle a grievance in which the steward was involved. 288 does not consider these

LOCAL 120...

(from page 1)

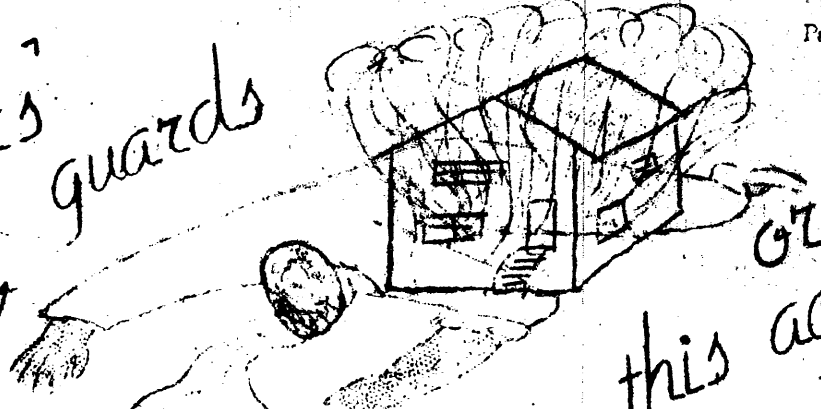
March of this year, by which time the workers had pushed their wage increases up another 15¢ an hour.

With prices rising to an unprecedented level, squeezing every last drop of wage increases out of the workers' pockets, Bingham in March proposed that the union sign a contract which would freeze the workers' wages at that level for a year. He immediately met a stone wall in the form of the well-established policy of the militants guiding Local 120: "wages", says this policy, shall never be frozen for one second of any contract we sign."

The result of this policy has been a continuous negotiation between the union executive board and Bingham throughout the summer months. By last week it became apparent that Boss Bingham was trying to stall for time - for cold weather and for Christmas, times very discouraging for pickets to walk back and forth in front of a struck plant. Aware of this, workers at Bingham took a strike vote last Friday (Sept. 13th) and with this overwhelming declaration of their intention to strike, sent their negotiating committee back with the order "Get us a contract now, or we strike within a week!"

This is the company that has paid these workers the monstrous wages of 50 cents (for women) and 75 cents (for men) per hour all during the war. Trilling and his company will only keep their promises while the workers stand behind them with the big stick of militant action.

Workers' defence now guards



this again!!

GEORGIA IN CHICAGO

In the South the Negro worker and sharecropper are held in economic and political bondage. Humiliated, flogged, lynched and many times burnt alive. This barbarism has the open toleration of the forces of "law and order" and their less open encouragement and support. In the city of Atlanta, Georgia, like in all southern communities, the Negro is pushed into a black ghetto. There he is born and there he dies unless he wants to exchange his southern ghetto for a northern one. If in the city of Atlanta militant Negro and white workers attempted to combat this segregation they would face a most difficult task. But let us assume that they proceeded to organize a CONFERENCE TO COMBAT TERRORISM AGAINST MINORITIES. Let us also assume that they established as their principal weapon in the struggle a reliance upon the Mayor of Atlanta and his police force. How futile how ridiculously unrealistic or spineless would we be obliged to say of this conference's effort. Yet that is exactly what the Conference to Combat Terrorism Against Minorities has done in Chicago.

There is no essential difference between the political machines of Atlanta and Chicago. Mayor Kelly represents body and soul, La Salle St. He and his police commissioners are perfectly aware of the cruel bombings and yet they tolerate them. With 6,000 police in Chicago we must conclude that these bombings are tolerated because they are desired by Kelly and the interests he represents. Yet this is the man who is being asked for help.

The National Association for the advancement of Colored People and the Socialist Workers Party - the two most important organizations in the Conference - shamelessly continue to drag themselves beggingly from one city official to the other. Originally the S.W.P. might have claimed that since the Conference turned

down its demand for defense guards there was nothing to do but to let the dissenters learn from experience. But school is out now. It is political cowardice to refuse to organize defense squads because they are illegal. To refuse to hold protest demonstrations because a permit is not forthcoming. SELF DEFENSE OF HELPLESS WORKERS AGAINST THE HOODLUMS OF THE REAL ESTATE SPIDERS IS NEVER ILLEGAL.

But the Conference continues to chatter. Words; however, will not mend the broken limbs of the Negro men, women and children who were forced to jump from their windows to escape fire and smoke. Neither will words prevent similar disasters from recurring.

The enemy of the Negro worker has resorted to fire and bombs. This is illegality at its worst. This is stark terrorism unloosed. Then what does the CONFERENCE TO COMBAT TERRORISM PLAN TO DO ABOUT COMBATTING TERRORISM? Negroes are going to continue to move into white neighborhoods; their miserable conditions in overcrowded, overaged, overpaid ghettos will compel them to. They must either be defended or they will be assaulted, maimed, killed. And this defense must be organized, and more powerful than the swinish attackers with bombs and fire.

Of course a few heads will be split. But so far only the poor, defenseless Negro men, women and children have been the victims. Well disciplined defense guards, imbued with the zeal necessary to protect our class brothers, can make it too dangerous for the cowardly hoodlums. This scum can only be driven away with a stick. Unless the Conference is prepared to use one then let it cease its meaningless talk about defending national minorities. We must beat the enemy at his own game, otherwise ... well, 62 Negro homes have already been attacked in Chicago.



This Way Please!



EUROPE'S PERSECUTED JEWS

History, it is said, repeats itself once as a tragedy then as a farce. That has all changed. Now tragedy follows tragedy. Before the jails and concentration camps of German capitalism (Belsen; Buchenwald, Dachau) were filled with Jewish victims. Now the concentration camps of British imperialism in the Near East (Athlu, Latrum, Raffa) hold around 3,000 Jewish people. Wholesale arrests were made without even going thru the pretense of issuing warrants. These prisoners are detained indefinitely without any charges.

So desperate is British imperialism that it finds it necessary to lock up its former agents such as Moshe Shertok who organized the recruiting of Jews into the British army during the war, and Berle Repetur who was cited by the British government for his work as director of construction of military establishments in Palestine.

Prisoners sent to the Labor Party government's concentration camps are given the "3rd degree" by notorious "Special Squad" officers who are especially trained for this democratic procedure. The treatment at the camps is a distillation of the best practices of British imperialism garnered from over 300 years of suppression of colonial peoples. The hapless victims of British democracy are given prolonged beatings with a variety of weapons after which they are made to stand for hours with large rocks tied under their arms.

Correspondents are not allowed to visit the concentration camps but people living nearby have testified that screams can be heard at all hours of the day and night. Many of the prisoners are so severely beaten they will be maimed for life.

To add to the general misery and oppression of the Jewish people in Palestine soldiers are sent into resistance areas with bulldozers, wrecking homes

and buildings, tearing up irrigation systems and water lines. One of the worst sufferers of this terror is the Jewish Federation of Labor. Its offices in Tel Aviv were smashed and thousands of dollars of workers' savings were looted from the Workers' Bank there.

The British Labor government has a reason for all this brutality. Hitler persecuted and exterminated the Jews first as a preparation for war and then as a means of continuing the war. Atlee persecutes the Jews in order to hold on to Palestine in preparation for war with the Soviet Union for control of the Middle East. Particularly now that the pressure of the Egyptian masses has forced the British out of Egypt does Palestine rate first place in British imperial defenses.

The role of the American government in this situation is as hypocritical as that of the British is cruel. Last month the State Department and the Army-Navy Petroleum Board declared that this country controls 42% of the oil reserves of the Middle East. Standard Oil of California and Texas Oil have exclusive development rights in Saudi Arabia and have also secured transit rights through Lebanon for a pipeline outlet on the Mediterranean. However, they are hesitating to build until the Palestinian situation is "cleared up" because of a possible oil terminal in Haifa.

The American ruling class has an immediate oil interest in subduing the Palestinian Jews and a long run one in building up that country in preparation for war with the Stalinist bureaucracy which has already entered the Middle East via war in Iran. Truman, fearful of alienating the millions of votes of the American Jews, hems and haws but still ends up by letting John Bull trample the Jews.

Such is the tragic plight of a tragic people. They have become experts on concentration camps but at the price of greater and greater persecution.